

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please delete the present heading and insert the following paragraph and heading:

Description

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of November 26, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 102 54 970.2 as well as the priority date of November 20, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding International application PCT/EP2003/012993 .

Background of the Invention

On page 1, lines 11 – 19, please amend this paragraph as follows:

A drag chain conveyor having the aforementioned features is described in ~~WO 01/81211~~ A4US 2004/0140178. Pursuant to one embodiment thereof, at least the carriers are comprised at least partially of a self-distinguishing, difficult to ignite plastic having a high mechanical strength, without any details being provided as to how the conveyor chains, with the carriers connected thereto, should be embodied. It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide, for a drag chain conveyor having the aforementioned general features, a suitable connection of the plastic carriers with the metallic conveyor chains.

On page 2, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

Summary of the Invention

On page 2, lines 1-3, please delete this paragraph as follows:

~~The realization of this object, including advantageous embodiments and further developments of the invention, is derived from the contents of the patent claims that follow this description.~~

On page 5, line 1, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, lines 15 and 16, please amend this paragraph as follows:

~~Fig. 5~~Figs. 5a and 5b the plastic carrier having a mesh of reinforcing fibers introduced.

On page 5, line 18 through page 6, line 5, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The construction of a drag chain conveyor having the aforementioned features can be derived in detail from ~~WO 01/81211 A1~~US2004/0140178, which is mentioned as the closest state of the art, so that reference is made thereto. As can be seen from Figure 1, the connection of a plastic carrier 10 with the annular chain links 13 of the two central chains 11 and 12 is formed in that during the casting or molding around of the chain links 13, the plastic or synthetic material matrix penetrates and surrounds the chain links 13 of the two central chains 11 and 12. For the reinforcement of the plastic matrix, reinforcing fibers 14 having a short length are randomly distributed in the plastic carrier.

On page 5, line 17, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 15, after line 7, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 102 54 970.2 filed November 26, 2002 and PCT/EP2003/012993 filed November 20, 2003.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.—

In addition, please add the attached abstract to the specification.